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The Friday Letter

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1988 Picnic a Sizzling Success

Over 472 FNS employees talked, ate, laughed, drank, danced, and sweated as they enjoyed FNS headquarters' annual picnic held July 12 at Cameron Station. Highlights of the day included thirst-quenching beverages, great music, delicious burgers and hot dogs, fabulous desserts, the awe-inspiring Special Nutrition Programs Olympic team, some hotter-than-the-day-itself dancing, and bonus door prizes, including a VCR and a three-month Center Club membership.



The picnic was a great success thanks to the incredible teamwork and organization of the Picnic Committee under the leadership of Steve Balsam. Gene Pitman and Tommy Mitchell were outstanding, as usual, in feeding the masses. The other members of this spirited team included Tracey House and

Debra Whitford (tickets), Diane Bohling (entertainment), Ann McCormick, Todd Nickens, and Art French (games), Mary Pat Stephenson (beverages), Sarah Aikenhead (beverage sales), Diane Berger (publicity), Melodye Dennis (site preparation and clean-up), Alicelynn Ryssman (dessert), and Jerry Boling (beverage license).

The committee received enthusiastic help from many, many others including Tim Murphy, Mark Porter, Bob Whiting, Larry Rana, Joe Leo, and Vicky Urcuyo. I was truly pleased by the teamwork which created the event and by the large turnout of employees and families who braved the withering heat. I was impressed by those who could dance, play games, and even sports in such hot weather! My personal thanks to all involved. Let's hope that all future picnics are as much fun!

-Story by Administrator Kondratas
Photos by Mary Morris and
Charlie Okal

(Picnic Continued Page 2)

Dance Contest Winners

First Prize

Regina Crews, ASD
Tyrone Carey, ASD

Second Prize

Sherita Jones (six-years-old)
Christina Jones (three-years-old)
Grandchildren of Doris Duna, PID

Third Prize

Tina Chen, CND
Keith Steier, OAE

Three-legged Race
Balloon Stamp
Egg-in-spoon Relay
Egg into Apron Toss
Water Balloon Toss

Gold Medal: Special Nutrition Programs

Silver Medal: Food Stamp Program

Bronze Medal: Management

Prizes Donated By:

The Video Vault
The Center Club
Copelands
Ramparts
Bread and Chocolate
Kitchen Bazaar



Joe Leo is comforted by Diane Bohling after the egg-toss contest, while other employees compete in the three-legged race.



Dessert Contest Winners

Best Overall Dessert

Alan Rich, PID - Lemon Cake
Karen Peko, PAD - Banana Nut Cake

Most Nutritious

Helen Lilly, NTSD - Fresh Fruit Pie

Most Unusual Ingredients

Wade Badger, PID - Apricot Mousse

Richest

Anne Gariazzo, PDD - Chocolate Peanut Butter Bars



Mike Yost and Vicky Urcuyo get ready for the balloon stamp contest.

Senate Passes USDA Fiscal Year 1989 Appropriations Bill

On July 29, the Senate passed H.R. 4784, the USDA Fiscal Year 1989 Appropriations Bill. The House passed its version of H.R. 4784 on June 16.

The House version appropriates a total of \$20.3 billion while the Senate version appropriates a total of \$20.5 billion for FNS programs. No date has been set for a conference.



-Story by Frank Ippolito
Governmental Affairs Staff

Senate Passes the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988

On July 26, the Senate passed S.2560, the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988. Major provisions of the bill include:

- o reauthorizing TEFAP for two more years,
- o requiring the purchase of \$145 million in high-protein foods for TEFAP,
- o increasing the basic levels of food stamp assistance,
- o providing funding for more food assistance through soup kitchens,
- o adding three cents to the school breakfast program, and
- o revising employment and training provisions of the Food Stamp Program.

The House plans to bring up the companion bill, H.R. 4060, the Hunger Relief Act of 1988, early in the week of August 8. Conference is planned shortly after that date.

-Story by Frank Ippolito
Governmental Affairs Staff

Financial Management Directors Conference is Rated a Success

Regional and headquarters Financial Management directors met July 26-28 at the Ramada Inn, Alexandria, Virginia. The theme of the conference was the "Regional Financial Management Information System" (RFMIS).

Two major objectives of RFMIS are to provide financial and grants management data to regional financial offices in usable formats and to increase the efficiency of grants closeouts. Implementation plans call for completion of the system by August 1989.

RFMIS Task Force is co-chaired by Rose McClyde, Accounting Division deputy director; and Crayton Lankford, Financial Management director, Southeast Region. Other headquarters representatives include Mazie Murphy, Geoff Gay and Chuck Cash. Other regional representatives include Sara Harding (SERO), Rebecca Tudisco (WRO), Connie Kelley (NERO), Rose Mary Brasil (MPRO), Mel Pickrell (SWRO), Priscilla Schmitz (SWRO), Kathy Troast (MARO), and Jose Hernandez (MWRO).

Other issues discussed included Fiscal Years 1988, 1989, and 1990 budget concerns; WIC formula rebates; advance planning documents; internal controls; A-128 audit tracking; the status and training for the grant award document and letter of credit; several Accounting Division long- and short-term projects; and the National Data Bank.

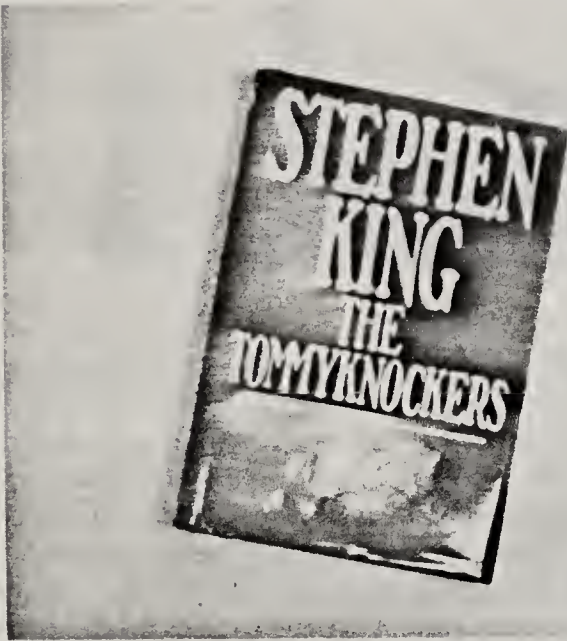
Associate Administrator Sonia Crow also spoke to the directors. In response to a question on the transition to a new administration, she complimented FNS on the high quality of work being done here, adding that, although there will certainly be some changes during the months after the election, FNS will continue to respond with high energy and excellence.

-Story by Anneva Hackley
Financial Management

Author Stephen King Takes Pot Shot at School Lunch

One author NERO staff especially likes to read on the way to work (via the MTA) is Stephen King, master of horror novels. His books aren't easy to put down, even when you want to.

And since King resides in Maine, his New England and FNS readers actually thought of him as one of their own. So you can imagine their chagrin when King launched a salvo at NSLP in his latest book, The Tommyknockers.



They were shocked to read, "His T-shirt showed a guy blowing his groceries-- SCHOOL-LUNCH VICTIM, the shirt said."

It called for a letter over the signature of NERO Special Nutrition Programs Director John Magnarelli, and staffer Jan Quinn penned one. Magnarelli told King that school lunch is a good program, so why did he have to jump on it? How about saying something nice about NSLP, Magnarelli asked. Maybe he thought King owed us one.

We're pleased to report a happy ending to this story. King responded with a gracious "qualified apology," printed below. (We've placed a copy of his letter in our Famous People file. King aficionados may inspect it upon request.)

Text of King's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Magnarelli,

I sympathize with your work and applaud your efforts to improve the quality of school lunches. I have a stake in this, too, as my youngest kid just finished the fifth grade and usually buys the school lunch. He is, you'd say, a satisfied customer.

Writing stories, however, often produces something like a snapshot of the moments just before the writer sat down on any given day. I remember writing about the kid in the SCHOOL LUNCH VICTIM T-shirt very clearly. My wife had sent me out to the market that day to get a few things just before I sat down to write. I saw a kid wearing that shirt, and just dumped it into the story. If I get a chance to say something nice about school lunches in the future, I will. In the meantime, I hope you can accept my qualified apology...which means I'd probably do it again, because it was just too good to pass up. And my own belief is that the kids actually like their school lunches pretty well; it's just that it's as fashionable to bitch about them as it is to groan when somebody makes a good pun.

Thanks for your interest, and for taking the time to write.

Regards,

Stephen King

-Story by Michael McAteer
Public Information Staff



New WIC ADP System Streamlines Reservation



A new stand-alone WIC computer system recently began operating on the South Dakota Rosebud Sioux Reservation. Developed by Doug Friesen of the Mountain Plains WIC staff and Susan Shacklett, a private consultant, the system is based on components of a system implemented for the Wyoming Department of Health and Social Services.

Despite initial minor glitches, the system is up and running and will serve as the model for a similar one being implemented by the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in neighboring North Dakota.

In January, Friesen demonstrated a prototype system for Rosebud staff. He and Shacklett worked with reservation program staff to tailor specifics to tribal needs and to achieve a workable format. Modifications and refinements should be complete by mid-summer. The system will include food instrument reconciliation, as well as participant entry and voucher issuance.

Rosebud's staff was trained by a contractor who helped the tribe prepare and organize its computer needs. The Rosebud WIC program uses two computers, one functioning as a "main" unit and the second used for remote sites on an irregular schedule.

Nightly reconciliation of records on the two computers ensures consistency of data.

At an April prototype demonstration for Standing Rock Reservation, Friesen discovered that most of the modifications will serve the needs of both tribes.

Standing Rock Reservation has been using a small state agency model system for data entry and check processing. The new stand-alone system will provide greater utility and flexibility. Standing Rock's system is expected to be fully functional by October 1.

-Story by Joanne Widner
Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Compliance Branch Investigators Enroll in Summer School



It's back to the books for several Compliance Branch investigators this summer as they attend a two-week Introduction to Criminal Investigations program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. The course is an intensive review of all aspects of investigations, including interviewing, courtroom testimony, and report writing.

The center, which is located at a former naval air station facility in Glynco, Georgia, is run by the U. S. Treasury Department and is the largest law enforcement training center in the Nation. By the end of August, 85 percent of Compliance Branch investigative staff will have completed the training.

-Story by Joe McLin
Compliance Branch
Food Stamp Program

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open	88-999	FNS
o Sec (Typ)	(G)	GS-318	5	8/8/88	88-58	SFPD
o Sec Stenographer	(G)	GS-318	7	8/8/88	88-59	ORO
o Sec (Typ)	(FNS)	GS-318	5/6	7/28/88	88-60	OAE
o Home Econ	(A)	GS-493	9/11	8/8/88	88-H-61	HNIS
o Food Prog Spec	(FNS)	GM-120	14	8/8/88	88-62	FNS*
o Home Econ	(A)	GS-493	11/12	8/22/88	88-H-64*	HNIS
o Sec (Typ)	(FNS)	GS-318	6/7	8/8/88	88-65	OGAPI
o Food Prog Spec	(G)	GS-120	5/7	8/15/88	88-66	NTSD
o Food Prog Spec	(A)	GS-120	5/7	8/15/88	88-66A	NTSD
o Sys Accountant	(G)	GS-510	12/13	8/15/88	88-23A	ACD
o Space Util Spec	(G)	GS-301	9/11/12	8/22/77	88-77	ASD
o Accountant	(G)	GS-510	5/7	8/22/88	88-71	ACD
o Supvry Food Pro Sp	(FNS)	GM-120	14	8/22/88	88-72	PDD
o Mgmt Serv Asst	(FNS)	GS-303	7	8/18/88	88-73	FSP
o Equal Opp Spec	(USDA)	GM-360	13	8/29/88	88-74	EEO
o Supvry Food Pro Sp	(FNS)	GM-120	14	8/22/88	88-75	PDB
o Food Prog Sp	(FNS)	GS-120	11/12	8/29/88	88-76	SFPD
o Food Prog Sp	(FNS)	GS-120	11/12	8/29/88	88-76A	SFPD
o Prog Anal	(A)	GS-345	12/13	8/29/88	88-78	OAE
o Equal Opp Spec	(USDA)	GM-260	13	8/29/88	88-79	EEO
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	5/6	8/29/88	88-80	IRMD
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	5/6	8/29/88	88-81	DAM
o Sec (Typ)	(FNS)	GS-318	4/5/6	8/19/88	88-82	FDD

Office Location

Area of Consideration

FNS	- Food and Nutrition Service	(A)	- All Sources
SFPD	- Supplemental Food Programs Division	(G)	- Governmentwide
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service	(L)	- Local Commuting Area Only
ASD	- Administrative Services Division	(FNS)	- Food and Nutrition Service
OAE	- Office of Analysis and Evaluation	(USDA)	- U.S. Department of Agriculture
NTSD	- Nutrition and Technical Services Division		
FNS*	- Southwest Region (Dallas, TX)		
ACD	- Accounting Division		
ORO	- Office of Regional Operations		
OGAPI	- Office of Governmental Affairs & Public Information		
ASD	- Administrative Services Division		
EEO	- Civil Rights & Equal Employment Opportunity		
IRMD	- Information Resources Management Division		
DAM	- Deputy Administrator for Management		
PDB	- Program Development Branch		

